## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 SEC-01

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:EO APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN L/ARA:DGANTZ (DRAFT) H:WRICHARDSON (DRAFT) L:MBFELDMAN (DRAFT)

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O 142136Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 112456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, ENRG, EIND, BL

SUBJECT: GULF OIL

REF: LA PAZ 3311

1. BEGIN FYI: IN VIEW OF CLEAR INDICATIONS IN GOB COMMUNICATIONS TO EMBASSY LA PAZ AND TO GULF OIL THAT BOLIVIAN
AUTHORITIES EXPECT USG TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION WHICH IS
"EXHAUSTIVE AND CONCRETE IN MATTERS REFERRING TO BOLIVIA",
COUNTRY DIRECTOR DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH AMB. CAPRILES ON
MAY 13. HE NOTED DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS
POSSIBLE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS PRIMARILY A MATTER
BETWEEN THE GOB AND GULF. AFTER NOTING GOB'S VARIOUS
REFERENCES TO AN INVESTIGATION BY USG, CD POINTED OUT TO
CAPRILES THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO "USG INVESTIGATION"
UNDER WAY SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO GULF ACTIVITIES IN
BOLIVIA. CD STATED THAT SEC INVESTIGATION OF GULF IS AIMED
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AT UNCOVERING POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF STOCKHOLDERS RIGHTS, I.E., VIOLATIONS OF U.S. LAW. HE ADDED THAT WHILE HEARINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY SENATOR CHURCH ON MAY 16 MIGHT WELL DELVE INTO QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO GOB, THERE WAS

NO CERTAINTY THIS WOULD BE THE CASE AND THAT IN ANY EVENT THE NATURE AND DIRECTION OF HEARINGS WERE ENTIRELY WITHIN THE CONGRESSIONAL AND NOT EXECUTIVE PROVINCE.

- 2. CAPRILES PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING BUT THEN REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT USE ITS "INFLUENCE" TO PERSUADE THE COMPANY TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO BOLIVIA'S REQUEST FOR FULL AND PROMPT DISCLOSURE OF THE FACTS. CD RESPONDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT A PROMPT AND FULL DISCLOSURE WILL BE MADE BY THE COMPANY. CD NOTED THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO BE HELPFUL AND THEREFORE AUTHORIZED USE OF OUR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR TRANSMITTING THE COMPANY'S MESSAGE TO THE GOB; HOWEVER, WE HAD NO DESIRE TO PLAY AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE AND WOULD EXPECT THE COMPANY, IN THE FUTURE, TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR DIRECTLY WITH THE GOB IN LA PAZ.
- 3. CAPRILES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION AND ADDED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE MAY 9 MEETING HE HAD WITH ORTIZ AND THE FACT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DELUGED HIM WITH INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE MEETING. HE SAID HE WANTED TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ALLEGATION OF "A DEAL BEING MADE" THROUGH SUCH MEETINGS, ADDING THAT GULF MUST COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY AND OFFICIALLY WITH THE GOB IN LA PAZ. CAPRILES EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE CD. END FYI
- 4. RE EMBASSY'S REQUEST PARA. 1, REFTEL, YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE ALONG THE LINES OF THE ABOVE CLARIFICATION MADE TO AMB. CAPRILES.
- 5. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL ATTEND CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS AND SUMMARY OF PERTINENT TESTIMONY WILL BE CABLED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO EMBASSY ASAP. FULL TRANSCRIPT WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN AVAILABLE. WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME FORESEE WHAT INFORMATION FROM SEC REVIEW MAY BE AVAILABLE, OR THE TIMING THEREOF, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO EMBASSY LA PAZ. IN ORDER TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE OF GARBLES IN TRANSMISSION OF WIRELESS BULLETIN ITEMS, DEPARTMENT WILL REPEAT KEY ITEMS BY CABLE.

6. BEGIN FYI: ORTIZ INFORMED DESK OFFICER THIS MORNING THAT "CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION" OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 240,000 WAS MADE IN 1966 TO "AN INDIVIDUAL IN BOLIVIA WHO IS NOT NOW LIVING." WHILE ORTIZ DID NOT SPECIFY, REFERENCE WOULD APPEAR TO BE EX-PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS. ORTIZ NOTED THAT THE PAYMENT "WAS NOT ILLEGAL." WE DO NOT KNOW IN WHAT FORM OR

DETAIL FOREGOING WILL BE MENTIONED BY GULF PRESIDENT DORSEY IN FRIDAY HEARINGS, IF AT ALL. PRESUMABLY, GULF WILL INFORM GOB BEFORE HEARINGS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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